

National Agricultural Summary

July 3 - 9, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy rain spread across a large area of the Corn Belt, eliminating moisture shortages in most areas and producing flash floods and standing water in others. A significant number of fields showed signs of stress due to the excess moisture, especially east of the Mississippi River. Crop conditions deteriorated in the Southeast, where hot, dry weather reduced already low-moisture reserves. Above-normal temperatures

stimulated crop development across most of the Corn Belt and in the northern Great Plains, while below-normal temperatures hindered crop growth in California and the Pacific Northwest. Around the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic coast, seasonably cool weather slightly limited crop progress. Dry weather aided fieldwork but increased moisture shortages in the Great Plains.

Corn: One-fourth of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, compared with 14 percent last year and 11 percent normally silking by this date. Fields were most advanced in Texas, the Southeast, and across the southern Corn Belt. Above-normal temperatures accelerated development across most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Fields rapidly progressed to the silking stage in Kansas, advancing 35 percentage points during the week. Acreage silking advanced 20 to 30 percentage points in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. Development lagged slightly behind normal in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Below-normal temperatures hindered development in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Conditions were aided by adequate moisture supplies across most of the Corn Belt, although heavy rain, strong winds, hail, and flooding damaged some fields. In the Great Plains, fields were stressed by moisture shortages and extreme heat.

Soybeans: Thirty-six percent of the crop was blooming, 7 percentage points ahead of last year's early pace and more than double the 17-percent average for this date. Warm weather stimulated growth across most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Fields rapidly entered the blooming stage across the Corn Belt, advancing 20 or more percentage points in many areas. A few fields entered the blooming stage in North Dakota and Wisconsin. Below-normal temperatures limited progress around the Great Lakes. Five percent of the acreage was setting pods, slightly ahead of last year's 4 percent and the 2-percent average. Fields in Louisiana and Mississippi were the most advanced, with 33 and 44 percent setting pods, respectively. Conditions deteriorated in parts of the Corn Belt due to excess soil moisture, while hot weather and moisture shortages stressed some fields in the Great Plains.

Small grains: Winter wheat harvest advanced to 76 percent complete, nearly 1 week earlier than last year and more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest rapidly progressed in the eastern Corn Belt, even though rain shortened the work week. Ohio and Indiana producers harvested 50 and 36 percent of their wheat crop during the week, respectively. Dry weather aided progress in Colorado, where growers harvested nearly half of their crop during the week. Harvest also remained active in Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska. The harvest was nearly complete in Arkansas, Kansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Spring wheat and barley were 78 and 74 percent headed, respectively. Development of both crops was about 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Normally, 60 percent

of spring wheat and 57 percent of barley would be heading by this date. Above-normal temperatures accelerated development in the northern Great Plains, while below-normal temperatures hindered development in the Pacific Northwest. In Montana, scattered thunderstorms brought drought relief to some areas, but was accompanied by damaging hail and strong winds. In eastern Montana, insect populations increased due to hot, dry weather.

Eighty-nine percent of oats were headed, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and well ahead of the 76-percent normal for this date. Above-normal temperatures aided development in the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. In Minnesota and North Dakota, acreage headed progressed 14 and 19 percentage points, respectively. Excessive soil moisture stressed fields in the parts of the Corn Belt.

Cotton: Eighty-three percent of cotton acreage was at or beyond the squaring stage, 9 percentage points ahead of last year's pace and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Acreage setting bolls advanced to 27 percent, slightly ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures stimulated development in the southern Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and most of the Southeast. Crop conditions deteriorated in most cotton-producing States due to increasing moisture shortages. Warm weather and adequate moisture supplies benefited cotton fields in North Carolina and Virginia. In California, cold weather hindered growth.

Rice: Twenty-one percent of the crop was headed, ahead of last year's 18-percent progress and 1 week ahead of the 16-percent normal for this date. Development was most advanced in Texas, where nearly three-fourths of the acreage was headed and a few fields were drained. In Mississippi, development remained behind normal, despite hot weather. Temperatures averaging well below normal hindered development in California.

Other crops: Sorghum was 22 percent headed, 2 percentage points ahead of last year, but behind the 24-percent average for this date. Development was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley, where 50 percent or more was headed. In Texas, development lagged behind normal, with less than half of the crop headed and just 10 percent turning color. Normally, 57 percent would be headed and 45 percent would be turning color by this date. Conditions deteriorated in South Dakota due to hot weather, strong winds, and increasing moisture shortages. Fifty-one percent of peanuts were pegging, slightly behind last year's pace.